

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 10-13 were rejected, and claims 21-36 were allowed. Claims 10, 12 and 13 have been amended for clarification, and claims 1-9 and 14-20 remain cancelled. Thus, claims 10-13 and 21-36 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below.

ALLOWED CLAIMS:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 21-36 are allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,732,230 (Cullen et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,590,856 (Swenton-Wall et al.).

Cullen et al. discusses a computer user interface for manipulating representations of *displayed* image fragments of an oversized image (see, column 5, lines 10-22 of Cullen et al.). For example, a map that is much larger than an 8.5"x11" paper size of most copiers, fax machines, etc., is displayed as image fragments on a display screen for manipulation by a user (see, FIGS. 5 and 6 and corresponding text).

In contrast, the present invention provides a plurality of storage areas that are arranged in a matrix to enable images to be "selectively" stored or inserted in the storage areas. As recited in independent claims 10, 12 and 13, vacant unit storage areas are "arranged into a matrix" for "selectively inserting" an image(s) into one of the vacant unit storage areas ("selectively inserted" in claim 10). That is, the insertion of the images into the storage areas is selectively executed.

The Examiner acknowledges that Cullen et al. does not teach or suggest vacant unit storage areas in a matrix to have images inserted, thus relies on Swenton-Wall et al. as teaching the same. However, Swenton-Wall et al. is directed to storing a plurality of meta-data records having text data of a corresponding digital image and displaying results of a search using image simulating slides (see, column 3, lines 20-35 and column 5, lines 5-22).

Thus, the combination of Cullen et al. and Swenton-Wall et al. does not teach or suggest, "selectively inserting" images into at least one of the vacant storage areas as recited in independent claims 10, 12 and 13 of the present application.

At page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner also relies on Seto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,651) to reject claim 12. However, Seto et al. is directed to temporarily storing a

part of an input bit information, determining whether the stored bit information coincides with a predetermined feature, and modifying print information for an object pixel that corresponds to a stored bit upon determining coincidence (see, column 15, lines 59-67).

Thus, the combination of Cullen et al. and Seto et al. does not teach or suggest, "selectively inserting processing images into selected ones of the vacant unit areas", as recited in independent claim 12.

It is submitted that the independent claims 10, 12 and 13 are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claim 11 depending from independent claim 10 is also patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Dependent claim 11 is also independently patentable. As recited in claim 11, the unit storage areas arranged in a matrix to have images "selectively inserted" (claim 10 upon which claim 11 depends) have "different capacities", and "the composite image is composed of the unit images having different dimensions". The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features recited in claim 11.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

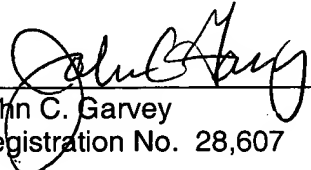
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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